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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/504,740	02/16/2000	Takeo Nishijima	450100-02317	6292
20999	7590	08/10/2005	EXAMINER	
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG 745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL. NEW YORK, NY 10151				ONUAKU, CHRISTOPHER O
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		2616		

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/504,740	NISHIJIMA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christopher Onuaku	2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 March 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/25/05 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 3/22/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that one frame of Sugiyama is sectioned into a plurality of sub-frames and the video data of plurality of images is written in the frame memory such that each sub-frame is assigned to one of the plurality of images. And that Sugiyama merely divides a frame and assigns a whole image (not reduced portions of images) to each section of the divided frame. Finally applicant argues Sugiyama, Katsuki, Kono and Yamamoto, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest dividing means for dividing a memory of a recording apparatus into a plurality of blocks, each of the plurality of blocks having a reduced video image, the reduced video image of each block

being a composite of images from each of the plurality of input streams, as recited in claim 1. Examiner disagrees.

Sugiyama discloses the conditioning key 24 for setting several modes, e.g., for selecting one of a single-frame print mode and multi-frame print modes, for controlling the quality of image, i.e., color balance and density, and for designating the number of prints (see col.3, lines 57-61). To explain the process of reducing a frame image to a given fraction of a full image, Sugiyama discloses, the conditioning keys 24 are operated to set the video printer in the mosaic print mode having four sub-frames, for instance. The conditioning data is written in the memory 15a of the system controller 15. A video signal from a still video player or the like is converted into 8-bit video data and is sent to the D/A converter 18. If the image displayed on the monitor is desired to be printed, the memory key 21 is operated to freeze the displayed image. Then, the memory controller 16 controls the frame memory 13 in accordance with the condition data stored in the memory 15a, so that video data corresponding to the displayed image but reduced in height and width to $\frac{1}{2}$ is written in a memory location S11 of the frame memory 13. The memory location S11 is one of the four memory locations S11, S12, S21 and S22 of the frame memory 13 corresponding to a quarter of one frame, as shown in Fig.3. In the same way as above, video data of other three images is reduced and written in the memory locations S12, S21 and S22 by operating the memory key 21.

When the designated number of images are memorized in the frame memory 13, the system controller 15 switches the selector 17 from the video input display mode to the memorized image display mode, to send the video data written in the frame memory

13 to the selector 17. As a result, a memorized multi-frame image, that is, a mosaic image consisting of four different images is displayed on the monitor 20, such that the four images are displayed in four sub-frames 36a, 36b, 36c and 36d arranged in 2x2 matrix in one frame 36 of the monitor 20, as shown in Fig.4 (see col.4, line 45 to col.5, line 11).

From the above discussions, it is very clear that Sugiyama discloses the claimed limitation of dividing means for dividing a memory of a recording apparatus into a plurality of blocks, each of the plurality of blocks having a reduced video image, the reduced video image of each block being a composite of images from each of the plurality of input streams, as recited in claim 1.

Since independent claims 10&11 have similar claimed limitations, examiner's response to applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 as stated above accommodates the applicant's arguments with respect to claims 10&11.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4,10-14&18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama et al (US 5,633,723) in view of Katsuki et al (US 6,259,859).

Regarding claim 1, Sugiyama et al disclose a video printer for making a hard copy from a video signal input from a video tape recorder (VTR), including a video printer which facilitates deleting an image displayed on a monitor in an entire area, or in a section of a frame by muting the video data with predetermined mute data, comprising:

a) composite video image generating means for generating reduced signal video images, each comprising less than a complete screen by reducing the number of pixels to be displayed of each of a plurality of video images supplied from frames of each of a plurality of input data stream, a frame from only one of each of the plurality of input data stream being supplied at a time, and generating a composite video image by compositing the generated reduced video images in a substantially non-overlapping manner (see Fig.1,3&4, the conditioning keys 24, system controller 15, memory controller 16, selector 17; col.4, line 45 to col.6, line 18);

b) additional information generating means for generating additional information for each of the supplied video images (see Fig.1, character input keys 25; ; col.5, line 50 to col.6, line 5);

c) dividing means for dividing a memory of the recording apparatus into a plurality of blocks, each of the plurality of blocks having reduced video image, the reduced video image of each block being a composite of images from each of the plurality of input streams (see Fig.1-Fig.4, conditioning keys 24; frame memory 13; memory 15a; and memory controller 16 which is controlled by the system controller 15; selector 17; memory key 21; col.4, line 45 to col.5, line 11), here the conditioning keys

24 set several modes, e.g., for selecting one of a single-frame print mode and multi-frame print modes, for controlling the quality the quality of image. In the multi-frame print modes, one frame is sectioned into a plurality of sub-frames, e.g., four, nine or sixteen sub-frames, arranged in a matrix, and video data of a plurality of images is written in the frame memory 13 such that each sub-frame is assigned to one of the plurality of images; the memory controller 16 controls the frame memory 13 in accordance with condition data stored in the memory 15a of the system controller 15. And Fig.3 shows an example of a frame image divided into four blocks/sections by the conditioning keys 24 based on the conditioning data stored in the memory 15a of the system controller 15 and stored in the frame memory 13 sectioned into four memory locations S11, S12, S21, and S22;

d) recording means for recording the composite video image and the additional information onto a predetermined recording medium in such a manner of maintaining the correspondence between each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image and each additional information (see Fig.1, recording medium 23; col.5, line 63 to col.6, line 18).

Sugiyama et al fail to disclose recording mode switching means for switching the recording from recording the composite video image to a full recording mode for recording one of the video images when a predetermined condition for the one of the video images is met.

Katsuki et al teach a recording apparatus, a recording/reproducing apparatus and a recording medium capable of recording video-signal data and audio-signal data into a

recording medium of a predetermined type, being well applicable to equipment such as a video camera, comprising video controller 38, and a number of recording modes, including normal recording mode and stretched-recording mode, wherein in accordance with a detected size of a free area left in the buffer memory unit 32, video camera is switched from the normal recording mode to a mode of the stretched-recording mode by the video controller 38 (see Fig. 5A,5B,9A&9B; col.23, line 42 to col.26, line 14). Here Katsuki teaches the principle of changing from one recording mode to another based on the condition, for example, that the size of a free recording area remaining in a recording medium (e.g., disc 51 of Fig.5) for recording video data and audio data is judged to be equal to or smaller than a predetermined value.

It, therefore, would have been obvious to modify Sugiyama with a recording mode switching means which is capable of switching from one recording mode to another recording mode on the basis of a predetermined condition, as taught by Katsuki, in order, perhaps to satisfy a user's special recording condition, including for example, switching the recording from recording the composite video image to a full recording mode for recording one of the video images when a predetermined condition for the one of the video images is met.

Regarding claim 2, Sugiyama discloses wherein the composite video image generating means performs a predetermined image compression to a video image obtained by combining the reduced video images and outputs the compressed video

image as a composite video image (see Fig.1, conditioning keys 24; col.4, line 45 to col.4, line 8)

Regarding claim 3, Sugiyama discloses wherein the predetermined recording medium is a tape-shaped recording medium capable of recording digital video information (see col.1, lines 8-14 and col.3, lines 12-26).

Regarding claim 4, Sugiyama discloses wherein the recording means records the composite video image and the additional information onto the same recording medium (see col.5, line 50 to col.6, line 18).

Regarding claim 10, the claimed limitations of claim 10 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 11, the claimed limitations of claim 11 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 12, the claimed limitations of claim 12 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 2 above.

Regarding claim 13, the claimed limitations of claim 13 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 3 above.

Regarding claim 14, the claimed limitations of claim 14 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 4 above.

Regarding claim 18, Katsuki further wherein the predetermined condition is a notification by an abnormally sensor associated with the video image that detects an emergency (see col.25, lines 55-63). Here examiner considers a shock or an external disturbance given to the main body of the video camera as an emergency.

Regarding claim 19, the claimed limitations of claim 19 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 18 above.

Regarding claim 20, the claimed limitations of claim 20 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 18 above.

5. Claims 5,7,8&16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama et al in view of Katsuki et al and further in view of Kono et al (US 5,187,589).

Regarding claim 5, Sugiyama and Katsuki fail to explicitly disclose wherein the supplied video images are video images intermittently captured by switching the video images outputted from the video supply sources in a time division manner.

Kono et al disclose a recording/reproducing apparatus for television image including simultaneous recording/reproducing of multiple TV signals, wherein the input switches 14 and 15 select first and second TV signals A and B provided by first and second TV tuners 9 and 10, respectively, the output circuit 16 sends out first TV signal A via input switch 14, a video memory circuit 17 performs signal processing for the mixed recording and separated reproducing of the video signals contained in TV signals A and B, an output switch 18 sends out selectively first TV signal A from output circuit 16 and second TV signal B from video memory circuit 17 (see Fig.6; switches 14&15; col.7, lines 24-36), here examiner reads the selective sending out of TV signal A and TV signal B by the output switch 16 as being in a time division manner because there is a time difference between the outputting of TV signal A and the outputting of the TV signal B. It would have been obvious to further modify Sugiyama with the switching means of Kono which selectively switches the video images of Kono, in order to also selectively switch the video images of Sugiyama.

Regarding claim 7, Kono further discloses wherein the supplied video images are video images outputted from a plurality of cameras (see col.23, line 66 to col.24, line 10).

Regarding claim 8, Kono further discloses wherein the supplied video images are video images intermittently captured by switching the video images outputted from the

video cameras in a time division manner (switches 14&15; col.7, lines 24-36 and col.23, line 66 to col.24, line 10).

Regarding claim 16, the claimed limitations of claim 16 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 7 above.

6. Claims 6&15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama et al in view of Katsuki et al and further in view of Yamamoto (US 5,469,270).

Regarding claim 6, Sugiyama and Katsuki et al fail to explicitly disclose wherein the additional information includes at least one of supply source information indicative of each of supply sources of the supplied video images, recording data and time information indicative of date and time on/at which each of the video images is recorded, frame division configuration information indicative of the arrangement and the maximum number of reduced video images in the composite video image, recording apparatus identification information for identifying the video recording apparatus used for recording, and contents information regarding the contents of each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image.

Yamamoto teaches a video editing apparatus for controlling a plurality of video reproducing apparatuses each having a video signal recorded on a recording medium such as a tape comprising a list setting portion for setting the edit decision list showing identification data of recording media which are to be used for a video edit (see Abstract).

It would have been obvious to further modify Sugiyama by realizing Sugiyama with the means to identify recording media, as taught by Yamamoto, since it is well known that adding an identification data to a recording medium, for example, provides the desirable advantage of easily identifying the recording medium.

Regarding claim 15, the claimed limitations of claim 15 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 6 above.

7. Claims 9&17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama et al in view of Katsuki and Kono and further in view of Yamamoto (US 5,469,270).

Regarding claim 9, the claimed limitations of claim 9 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 6 above.

Regarding claim 17, the claimed limitations of claim 17 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 6 above.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Onuaku whose telephone number is 571-272-7379. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Groody can be reached on 571-272-7950. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

NOTE: Effective July 15, 2005, the Central Fax Number will change to 571-273-8300. Faxes sent to the old number (703-872-9306) will be routed to the new number until September 15, 2005.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

COO
8/4/05


James J. Groody
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2616